

Office of the State Fire Marshal
1207 Quarrier St.
Charleston WV, 25301
(304) 558-2191
www.firemarshal.wv.gov

December, 2018
Issued Bi-monthly



Safety Spotlight Newsletter

Message from the State Fire Marshal,

People are at greater risk of fire injuries and deaths in the winter season when they cook holiday meals, display decorations, and use unsafe heat sources. You can help prevent winter weather-related home fires in your community by promoting winter fire safety tips through social media messages, public service announcements, and publications.

The threat of winter fires is real. Share these statistics from the U.S. Fire Administration to help your community understand how severe these fires can be:

- 890 people die in winter home fires each year.
- \$2 billion in property loss occurs each year from winter home fires.
- Winter home fires account for only 8 percent of the total number of fires in the U.S., but result in 30 percent of all fire deaths.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.
- A heat source too close to combustibles is the leading factor contributing to the start of a winter home fire (15 percent).
- 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

Winter Fire Safety Tips that you may want to promote include:

- Smoke Alarm Installation, Testing and 10 Year Replacement.
- Dangers of Carbon Monoxide.
- Keep snow and ice 3 feet away from fire hydrants.
- Suggest ways to cook safer indoors.
- Encourage safe holiday decoration displays, including candles.
- Make homes safer from electrical fires.
- Safety tips when using space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces.
- 3 feet rule for heat sources.



You can go to the following website to obtain several useful resources to provide winter fire safety message out to your community: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html>

Together we can make West Virginia a safer place to live, work and visit!

Sincerely,

Bob Sharp
Chief Deputy





How to make your life easier using NFIRS

- Civilian fire related deaths and injuries are NOT to be reported by departments GIVING mutual aid; rather, it is the responsibility of the responding department to report this information.
- NFIRS incidents with Civilian fire related deaths are due online within 24 hours.
- Firefighter injuries and deaths are to be reported only by the department they belong to and must be reported online within 24 hours.
- If your department is GIVING mutual aid then you need only fill out the basic module.
- Tree down, disabled vehicle, installing smoke detectors would be Incident Type 553 Public Service.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives, now let's share this news



This photo is from a fire that occurred on Sunday, November 25th in Wayne County. Two people were home at the time the fire started and alerted thanks to working smoke alarms. The fire started in the back bedroom and was contained there. Kermit VFD sent this photo through our Public Education Network with the hope that we'd share this with others. Time and time again smoke alarms alert residents to fires, but are we conveying that message to our residents? Fire Safety is so important and often overlooked. We will continue to share information like this to residents, we ask fire departments to share with us in return. If you're looking to join the Public Education Network send an email to courtney.a.rosemond@wv.gov

CALLING ALL FIRE SERVICE HISTORIANS: The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office will celebrate a milestone in 2019, the office turns 110 years old. We are asking anyone with old photos, memorabilia or information to get in contact with Public Information Specialist Tim Rock, timothy.t.rock@wv.gov We are hoping to celebrate the agency over the years and provide keepsakes for years to come.



Gov. Justice honors Three Fire Marshals

Elderly Mason man was victim of scam; Fire Marshals stepped in to help



CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Governor Jim Justice is recognizing a trio from the West Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office who went above and beyond to aid a home repair scam victim in Mason County. Assistant State Fire Marshals L.L. Price, T.S. Provaznik and S.E. Petry were honored during a Wednesday ceremony at the State Capitol. Deputy Chief of Staff Ann Urling presented their awards on behalf of Gov. Justice.

The three responded to a September complaint concerning electrical work performed on a single-family dwelling. The owner, a senior citizen, had hired a person he believed to be a West Virginia-licensed electrician and paid him in advance.

The marshals discovered that the man claiming to be an electrician had never obtained the appropriate state license. This individual was cited and later admitted to operating without a valid electrician’s license. But the Fire Marshals also found that the electrical wiring this individual had installed posed an immediate hazard to anyone living in the home if activated. The homeowner lacked the resources to hire someone else to bring his home into compliance with the electrical code.

Price, Provaznik and Petry stepped up. Price, a certified commercial and residential electrical inspector, reached out to former co-workers and formed a small team of licensed electricians to help with this project. Aided by local business that donated materials, they rewired the home at no cost to the resident.

During the rewiring it was also noted that the resident had no working smoke alarms in the home. Those, too, were installed.

“I’m so proud to serve with such dedicated people that are second-to-none public servants,” said State Fire Marshal Ken Tyree. “They have gone above and beyond to help this man and have served his family with this act.”

Code Corner

Are Christmas decorations approved for all occupancies?

As we approach the holidays, nursing homes throughout the country will begin decorating for the festive season.

Decorations and Finishes - NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, Section 19.7.5.4

"Combustible decorations shall be prohibited in any health care occupancy unless they are flame retardant."

Prohibited decorations include:

- Natural cut Christmas trees. International Fire Code (IFC) 806.1.1.
- Fresh cut evergreen boughs for decoration.
- Paper tree ornaments.
- Trees, plants, displays, hangings, and other decorations must not block exits, visibility of exits, or fire protection appliances. NFPA 101 Section 7.1.10.2, IFC 806.3.
- Burning candles. NFPA 101 Section 13.7.2, IFC 308.1.5.
- Never hang decorations from fire sprinkler heads or pipes. NFPA 25, 2-2.2 (1998 Edition).

Electric Portable Space Heater Safety

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.

Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.

Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.

Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.



West Virginia Fire Commission

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Training Opportunities and Important Dates

Jan. 4th– **Firefighter I** at New Martinsville VFD

Jan 5th– **Instructor I** at WVNCC Wheeling Campus

Jan. 8th—9th **EMS Functions in ICS F0166**

Mark Lambert

Director

WVU Fire Extension/Academy

304-406-7479

mark.lambert@mail.wvu.edu

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/main/offeringCcp?id=25707>

Feb. 19th– **ESCAPE 2019** at Pipestem State Park

May 16 - 19th - **7th Annual FDNY Medical Special Operations Conference**

Register on-line at www.fdneypro.org/msoc



Visit West Virginia Public Service Training at:

www.wvpst.org

 West Virginia University
EXTENSION SERVICE



WVU Fire Service Extension

West Virginia Fire Commission



Fire Department Services Committee

Members: Mongold (Chair), Oldaker, Camp, Hart and (Vacancy)

Disciplinary Committee

Members: Eastham (Chair), Shriver, Mongold, George, and Martin Hess

Legislative, Codes, and Regulatory Committee

Members: Shriver (Chair), Camp, Oldaker, Keefer, and Martin Hess

Training Committee

Members: White (Chair), Eastham, George, Keefer and Estep

Recruitment and Retention Committee

Members: Hart (Chair), Estep, Oldaker, George, and Martin Hess

Meet the Commission



Grant Gunnoe
Chairman

Grant represents the Paid Firefighters in West Virginia and was appointed on the Fire Commission by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin in 2010. After graduation from High School Grant worked in the Communications Center for the Charleston Police Department and then as a Paramedic for the Charleston Emergency Ambulance Service until beginning a 28-year career with the Charleston Fire Department. In 2002 he was promoted to Chief of the Department. Grant retired in May of 2006 to assume the position of Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the City of Charleston.

WV State Fire Commission Annual Report 2018



State Fire Marshal's Projects and Programs for FY 2018

Review and Recommendations on Volunteer Fire Service Concerns

The State Fire Marshal completed a 33-3-33a legislative report titled, Review and Recommendations on Volunteer and Part-Volunteer Fire Service which addressed issues such as: funding of fire departments, cost of worker's compensation coverage, causes of and strategies for recruitment and retention, economic benefits derived from these departments, and an assessment of the current and future sustainability model for volunteer fire departments. The goal is to perform further work to address concerns.

West Virginia Fire Death Reduction and Public Education

The public education section continues to develop and deliver public service announcements that are delivered around the state. We continue to educate the public about many aspects of fire safety through various programs such as providing and supporting smoke alarm installations. We are also working on a statewide Community Risk Reduction program which is an integrated approach to balance emergency response capabilities with proactive measures that work together to reduce risk and loss in communities.

Technology and Efficiency

The State Fire Marshal along with staff is studying ways to implement greater information technology (IT) enhancement within the agency for improved efficiency when it comes to every division's specific responsibilities for streamlining job performance, record keeping, invoicing and their accounts receivable system.



RECALL ALERT: Bedside Fire Alarm and Clock

Lifetone Technology Recalls Bedside Fire Alarm and Clocks Due to Failure to Fully Alert Consumers to a Fire

RECALL ALERT

Name of product: Bedside Fire Alarm and Clock

Hazard: The bedside fire alarm and clock can fail to operate and fully alert consumers to a fire.

Remedy: Replace

Recall date: November 8, 2018

Units: About 10,000



Serial number: AC170105774

MODEL NO. HLAC151

Lifetone HL™

Bedside Fire Alarm and Clock

Lifetone Technology, Inc

P.O. Box 18122

Oklahoma City, OK 73154

Consumer Affairs: 1 800 648-7923

www.lifetonesafety.com

US Patents 6,658,123; 7,129,833

and 7,148,797; other patents pending

SIGNALING



LISTED
S24639

RoHS Compliant
Made in China

Single- and/or
Multiple-station
Smoke Alarm Accessory
UTGT-UTGT7-UUKC

Low frequency sounder.
For residential use or
use with commercial
notification appliances
in U.S. and Canada
with or without
bed shaker.

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

THIS UNIT IS TO BE INSTALLED IN A ROOM OCCUPIED FOR SLEEPING.

WARNING! ALWAYS install UL-listed T3 smoke alarms in proper locations in your home before operating the Lifetone HL™. FREQUENTLY TEST the Lifetone HL™ to assure proper operation with your existing smoke alarm. DO NOT ignore any emergency alarm.